Lewis Nolan Smith c 1915

Reflections

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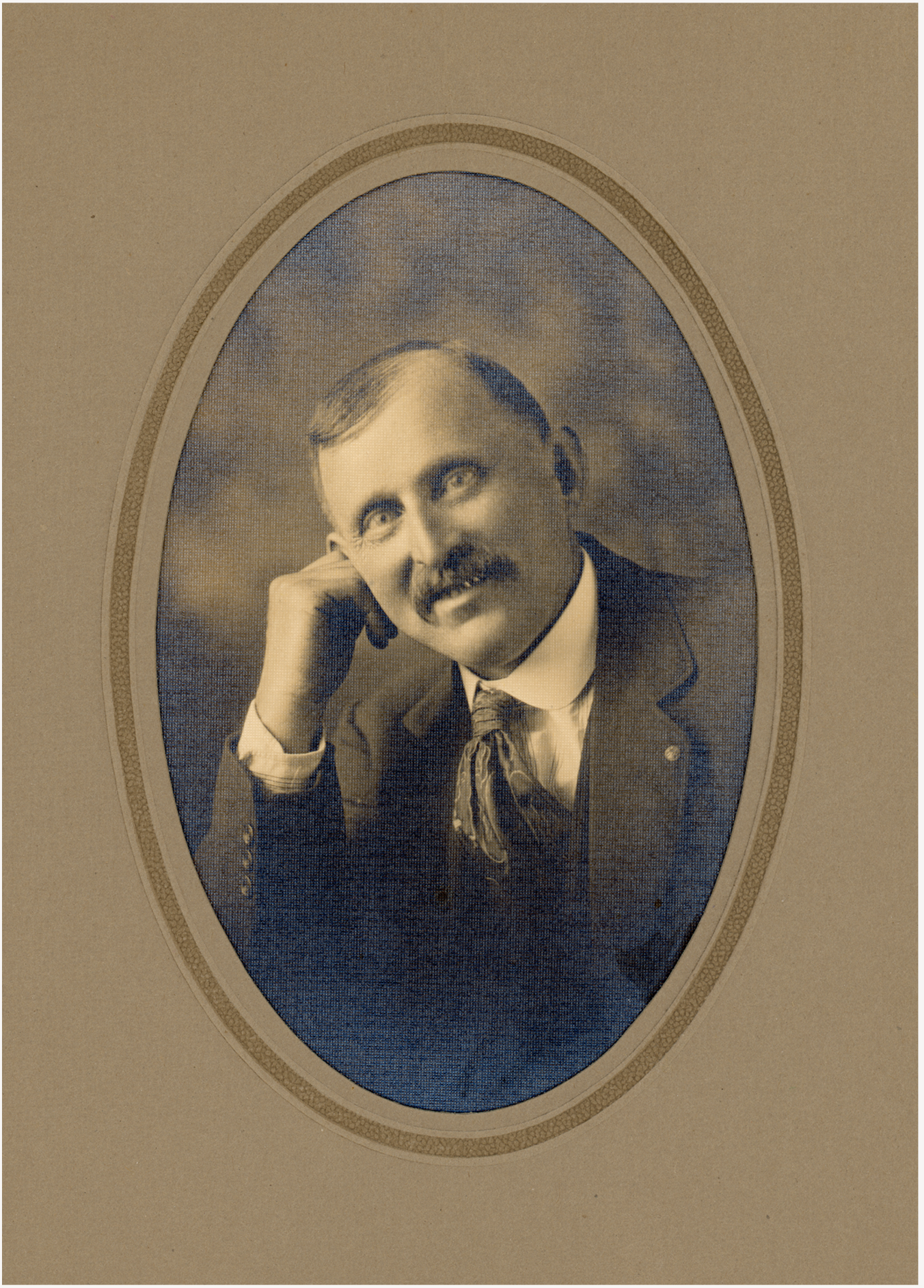
Lewis Nolan Smith (1871–1931) was the eldest son of John Lewis Smith and Esther Wells Smith. He appears in a number of photographs throughout the archive and never married—a detail that may help explain how these photos eventually found their way to me.

This particular image is mounted in a somewhat oversized bifold photo folder and shows light wear from storage. The folder measures 7 x 11 inches, while the photograph itself is approximately 6 x 4 inches. The photograph remains in excellent condition; the folder shows only minor wear, likely from being jostled in a drawer over the years.

According to Maxine Wilson, daughter of Esther Toner Pencelin, Lewis was an aspiring photographer. She recalled that he once traveled to Alaska with his sisters and a brother-in-law, taking photographs along the way. Maxine said those images were later donated to the Douglas County Museum, though none were labeled or identified.

Best estimate for the date of this photograph is circa 1915.